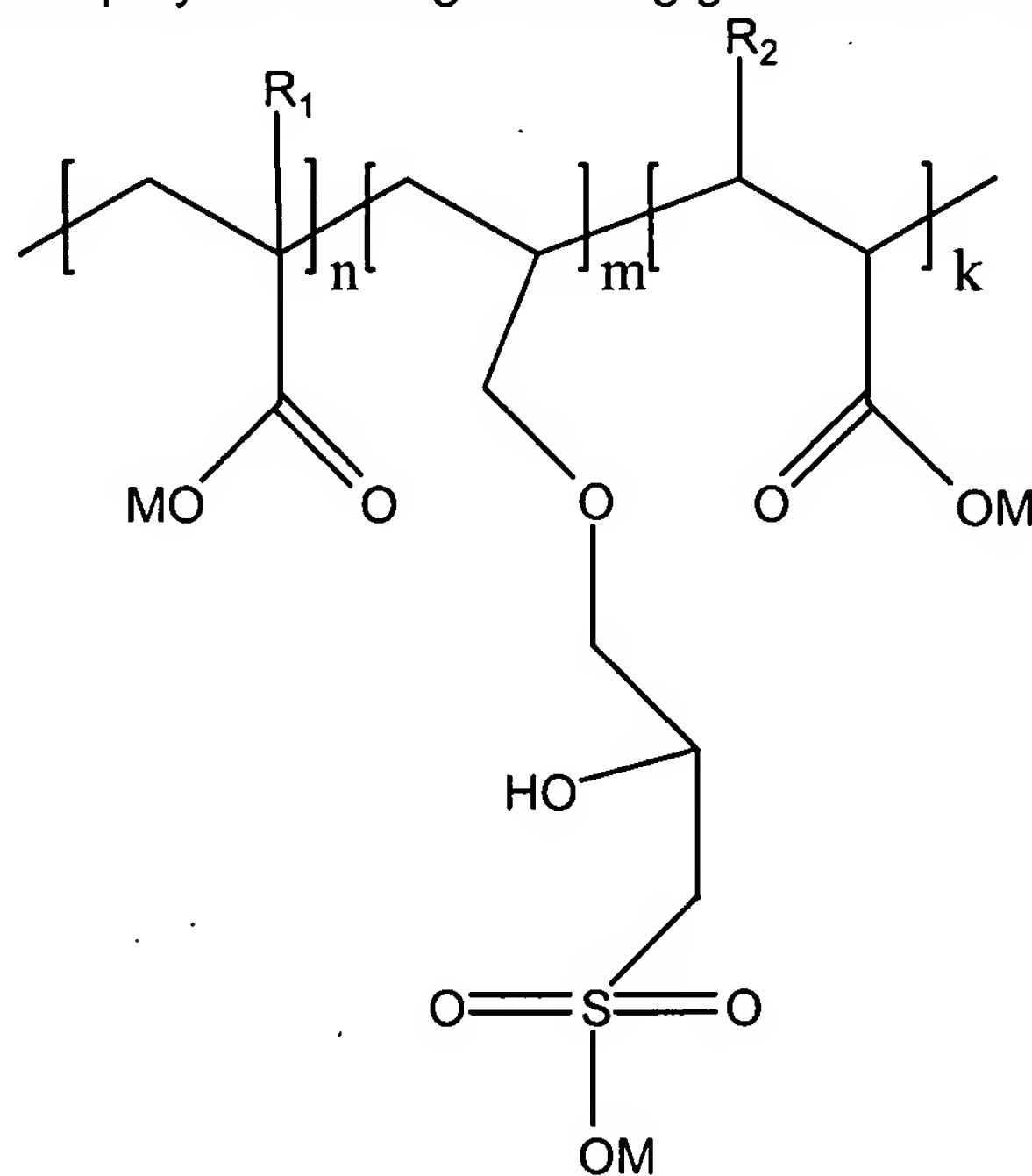


**Abstract**

The invention relates to a process for the treatment of a fibre material comprising the step of contacting the fibre material in an aqueous medium with a chelating agent and a polymer having following general formula



wherein

$R_1$  is a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group containing 1 to 12 carbon atoms,

$R_2$  is  $-COOM$  or  $-CH_2COOM$ ,

$M$  is a hydrogen atom, an alkali metal ion, an alkaline earth metal ion, an ammonium ion or a mixture thereof,

$n$ ,  $m$  and  $k$  are molar ratios of corresponding monomers, wherein  $n$  is 0 to 0.95,  $m$  is 0.05 to 0.9, and  $k$  is 0 to 0.8, and  $(n+m+k)$  equals 1, and

the weight average molecular weight is between 500 and 20,000,000 g/mol.

The invention also relates to a composition comprising a chelating agent and the above polymer.